

about expressing my objections. However, six months later, when I saw him at law school, he had removed his mustache. When I inquired as to the reason, his explanation really awakened me. He said he simply got tired of it and that if it hadn't been for me, he would have been tired of it three months earlier! When I reported that to the school board and campaigned for a total concentration on comportment in academics, and not on these extraneous things, the board finally agreed to do away with any dress codes. The administrators, to their dismay at the outset, found that students' appearance did not deteriorate as they had anticipated.

One of the things I remember with satisfaction is that I had an intern working with me for awhile when I was on the school board, doing leg work and research, helping me considerably and helping in his own development. I have recommended that a few times since.

Q: In the 1980s, concerned about funding for the school district, you helped organize the Committee for Excellence. You worked with Larry Winn III and Fred Logan. (Since that time, Winn has been elected to the school board and Logan has become a co-sponsor of the Committee for Excellence.) Initially you were very much involved in gaining the support of a levy election and then two bond issues, the last of which was for \$140 million in the Shawnee Mission district.

A: Through the work of the Committee for Excellence, which had hundreds of supporting activists or more, we were able to get three school bond elections passed with 60 to 70 percent of the vote in favor. Recognizing that about 30 percent of those voters did not have children in the schools, I think that is conclusive proof of the commitment to quality education that permeates Johnson County.

The Committee for Excellence has also been active recently in funding for public schools, which has decreased ever since 1992, when the legislators took funding responsibilities away from the districts and returned those responsibilities to Topeka. We shared concern with all Kansas districts about the inadequacy of the funding, and lobbied extensively to represent the youngsters. We feared that many legislators were more interested in getting reelected than in meeting this educational priority. The committee remains very active now, because it is clear that the foundation plan for supporting public schools in the state of Kansas requires major reform.

Q: Tell us briefly about your experience as a member and president of the Kansas Board of Regents.

A: I was appointed in the mid-1970s to the Board of Regents by outgoing Gov. Robert Docking, at the request of the incoming governor, Robert Bennett. This was a practice that indicates the cooperation and civility existing in those days that has largely disappeared in state and national politics.

My experience on the Board of Regents was wonderful and one of the most enjoyable activities in which I have participated in the public arena, largely because of the other members of the board, with whom I had the pleasure to associate in the governance of public-supported colleges and universities in Kansas.

I would not like to have this statement misunderstood, but I have considered Bob Bennett—quite apart from any appreciation for his appointing me to the Board of Regents—to have been the best governor Kansas has had in my experience, and maybe ever. I couldn't be more sincere in saying that, because in my opinion, Gov. Bennett

made decisions in the interest of the whole state quite apart from partisan motivation. I learned a good deal from him in that regard.

Q: You chaired the Legislative Committee for the Johnson County Community College Foundation. What was that committee's mission?

A: There was concern about losing local control over community college funding at the time of the reorganization of the Kansas Board of Regents. There is now a predominant feeling at that college that the situation is stable. However, the committee is ready and willing to reactivate if needed.

Q: In December 2003, the Children's Center at Johnson County Community College was renamed the Hiersteiner Child Development Center in honor of you and Jean. Your financial gift allowed the college to enlarge and renovate its center, making it possible for more students pursuing the curriculum in early-childhood education to move from the waiting list into the program. Has child development had a special place in your heart?

A: We have four children, and when we first moved to Kansas City, my wife, with some others, organized a coop nursery in association with the then University of Kansas City. Science has recently revealed that the brain commences to develop even prior to birth, and that was assurance to my wife and me that children needed the benefit of trained professionals, not just those offering custodial care.

Jean has always had a passion about teaching child development specialists. At the center's dedication, she told the audience that she had always thought the name "Hiersteiner" was a bit long and difficult every time she had to fill out forms or write a check—but her pride in seeing the name on the building was changing her view about the awkwardness of our name!

Q: You co-chaired Truman Medical Center's first major fund-raising effort, which was a \$20 million capital campaign. For many years you have been on Truman's Charitable Foundation board, while Jean has been active in the medical center auxiliary and gift shop, which she co-managed for about 15 years. Additionally, you and Jean have endowed scholarships for nurses. What fuels your passion for health care activism?

A: Everyone recognizes the requirement of adequate health care, but unfortunately, there are any number of individuals without health insurance and without the means of paying for care.

The Menorah Hospital experience that I had for more than 40 years was rewarding, but my involvement at Truman Medical Center for about 20 years is in my judgment absolutely imperative because the mission of Truman is to take care of clients irrespective of their ability to pay. Truman is a wonderful community institution under the expert presidency of John Bluford, meeting a need for those who cannot afford to pay. But it also has an excellent faculty that is good enough to be desired by any number of paying patients. Its equipment is first rate and its faculty is outstanding.

Interestingly enough, I became involved at Truman while still a member of the board at Menorah, because I received a mailing from Truman that had too much postage on the envelope. I called to explain to them that they could save money by being up to date on postal regulations. About 15 minutes after that call, Jim Mongan, who was at that time the president of Truman Medical Center, was in my office inviting me for a tour of the facility, after which he was able to secure my appointment to the board. That has been a very satisfying experience over the years.

Without the assistance of this outstanding institution, most of the private hospitals, if not all of them, would have red ink on their bottom line. No one in the community should be satisfied witnessing people in our community not having any access to health care at all.

Q: You are on the advisory board of the Mainstream Coalition. What parts of that group's mission are most important to you?

A: I believe our goal is education for the community about domestic, national, and foreign issues for which the public needs as much information as possible. The coalition is quite diverse and nonpartisan, with Republican, Democrat, and Independent members.

Q: Countless community leaders have praised the fact that your stand on issues or candidates is never based on ideology or party affiliation, but rather on what you believe is best for the people of Kansas City. What are the keys to maintaining an independent frame of reference?

A: Well, I persist in my personal points of view, and I believe that people involved in their communities do a better job of it if they act in as nonpartisan a way as they can. Organized politics has never been appealing to me, so I try to make my mark outside the realm of parties.

Q: How do you keep your optimism going?

A: Quite often, I don't! But the main tools I use are hope and paying attention to what is going on in my community and what I can do about it.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN ON NATIONAL DAY

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend to the people of Taiwan my heartiest congratulations as we approach October 10 or National Day—the founding day of the Republic of China.

Since the ROC government was founded on the Chinese mainland nearly 100 years ago, the people and government of the republic have made great economic and political strides. Over the last several decades, Taiwan has been transformed from a one-party state, into a thriving global economic powerhouse, a generous and responsible member of the international community, and perhaps the most vibrant multi-party democracy in the Western Pacific.

This year has been an especially eventful year in Taiwan's democratic evolution as voters on the island made historic revisions to the ROC constitution through a referendum process—a process that could never have been conducted on the Chinese mainland. President Chen and the Taiwanese people deserve our respect and admiration for moving forward with this historic election despite pressure from communist China in the face of the recently passed so-called "anti-secession law."

Again, I congratulate the people of Taiwan on this National Day, and I hope that this important national holiday will inspire the people of Taiwan and their elected leaders of all parties to work together to preserve the future of Taiwan.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR.
CLAUDE M. ROHWER

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to express warm thanks and congratulations to Mr. Claude M. Rohwer, upon his retirement as Associate Dean of the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law. After nearly four and a half decades of service as a professor, he now concludes a stellar career in academia.

A native of Dixon, California, Claude grew up raising pigs on his family's Sacramento Valley farm. He received his undergraduate education at the acclaimed University of California at Berkeley, following which he earned his Juris Doctorate degree from Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law in 1958. That same year, he began service to his country in the U.S. Air Force's Judge Advocate General's Corps.

From 1960 to 1961, Claude was a Deputy Attorney General for the State of California. Following this experience, he launched a career in private practice with the firm of Downey, Brand, Seymour and Rohwer in Sacramento. After a few years as an associate in what was then the largest practice in the city, he became a partner from 1965 to 1967.

Mr. Speaker, having taught at the McGeorge School of Law since 1961, Claude decided to leave private practice in 1967 to take a full-time position on the faculty as one of four charter professors. Generations of law students are grateful that he did, for he helped the school develop from a small, unknown entity into a proud institution.

Claude has specialized in international law during his career. From 1982 to 1986, he was the Associate Dean for Graduate and International Programs. And since 2003 he has filled duties as the Associate Dean for International Affairs. He has lectured and consulted all over the world. He has taught commercial and contract law courses in cities including Vienna, Salzburg, Edinburgh, Shanghai, and London. Most recently, he has consulted the Vietnamese Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Trade to help rewrite that nation's civil code and commercial law respectively.

In addition to being an accomplished teacher, Claude has published many legal works. While much of his writing portfolio has an international emphasis, I benefited from his text "Contracts in a Nutshell" when I was his student at McGeorge.

Claude is a member in good standing of the California Bar Association, American Bar Association, and International Bar Association. Among his professional honors, Professor Rohwer belongs to the Order of the Coif, was named an Amicus Lex Scholar in 1982, and was the University of the Pacific Professor of the Year in 1981.

In retirement, Claude plans to write a history of McGeorge. In addition to spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren, he also intends to continue singing bass with the West Valley Chorale and pursuing the love of hunting he inherited from his own father.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in commending Professor Claude Rohwer for his outstanding service to our country as a member

of the Armed Forces, an able attorney, and a career educator. After all that has been said about him, he is simply a good and decent man, and I am personally thankful for his guidance and instruction he has provided to me and countless other students of the law. May he enjoy this next phase of life with the satisfaction of knowing he has had a tremendous influence on the profession he loves.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATOR RAYMOND K. DUSZA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great labor leader, public official and dear friend and colleague who at the end of this year will retire from active public service as a member of the Erie County Legislature—the man commonly known as "Mr. Cheektowaga," Legislator Raymond K. Dusza.

During the 1990s, I worked closely with Ray, and saw firsthand his gentle yet persistent leadership style. Ray's leadership on so many issues important to taxpayers and consumers won kudos from countless local residents and praise from local taxpayers' groups.

Ray's call to public service came early in life. He enlisted in the United States Army and defended this country as a Paratrooper in the unit known as "America's Guard of Honor," Ray's beloved 82nd Airborne Division. When Ray came home after his military service, he started at the Westinghouse Electric corporation, where his reputation as a "man of the people" became apparent. Ray rose through the ranks and was chosen to represent 4,000 of his labor brothers and sisters as leader of the International Union of Electrical Workers, Local 1581.

In 1988, the 8th District seat in the Erie County Legislature became vacant. After many years of active service in the community and in the Democratic Party, Ray contested and won election that November, representing the residents of the Town of Cheektowaga and the Village of Depew. Over the past 17 years, Republicans and Democrats alike have bowed to the high regard with which this man has been held—Ray has never been seriously challenged for re-election.

Local consumers soon learned that they had no greater defender of their rights than Ray Dusza. Ray led the fight for a new Item Pricing/Scanner Accuracy law for Erie County, to ensure that prices consumers were charged for goods were properly reflecting prices on store shelves. Through Ray's work, scanners in supermarkets, home centers and other retail stores that were estimated to be accurate only 50 percent to 70 percent of the time must now offer consumers 98 percent accuracy. In addition, Ray will always be remembered as the "Coupon King" for his successful fight against the Proctor & Gamble Corporation's attempt to deny local shoppers free access to manufacturer's coupons. Ray fought hard for consumers, residents and taxpayers as Vice Chairman of the Legislature's Public Safety Committee, and as Chairman of two legislative standing committees, the Government Affairs

Committee and the Energy and Environment Committee.

Ray Dusza added one more very important element to his service in County Hall: a robust sense of humor. Ray's philosophy was to "be serious about what you do, but don't take yourself too seriously," and he was indeed good to his word. Ray always added a refreshing sense of humor to the deliberations within County Hall, consistently entering committee meetings with the declaration that "the paratroopers have landed," and sarcastically questioning what time the perennially tardy "nine o'clock caucus" would begin.

Ray's dedication to his community was not limited to his role in the Legislature. The following are just a few of the organizations Ray has dedicated his time and energy toward: the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Knights of Columbus—Father Justin Council, Polish Falcons Club, American Legion Gierlach Post, Depew/Cheektowaga Taxpayers' Association, AMVETS Buddy Knaus Post, Catholic War Veterans Post 1313, the Ushers Society at St. Philip the Apostle Church, and St. Josephat's Parish Holy Name Society. In addition, Ray is the leader of the eponymously-named "Ray Dusza Booster Club," a grouping of political supporters that Ray sentimentally refers to as his "commandos."

Mr. Speaker, I am a lifelong resident of another great Western New York community—South Buffalo, NY, and the highest compliment that folks can pay to someone from South Buffalo is that they remember where they come from, and remember the people who sent them to serve in public office. Few public officials remember from whom and from whence they came the way Ray Dusza does. I am delighted that you have allowed me to take a few moments to honor Ray's service to our community here today, and I am honored even more to call Ray Dusza my friend. To Ray, his wife Terry, to their children, grandchildren and to the entire Dusza Family, I want to offer my sincere thanks, and my wishes of good luck and Godspeed for many years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE DONALD BASYE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor George Donald Basye, a man who through hard work and dedication has become one of the most respected and accomplished water and flood attorneys in California. As his friends, family and colleagues gather to pay tribute to Mr. Basye's remarkable 50-year career with the Central Valley law firm of Downey Brand, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this great American success story.

George was born on June 21, 1926 in Porterville, California. After graduating from high school in 1944, George served in the U.S. Navy. As an enlisted sailor, George held the rank of Seaman Second Class Musician Striker and performed in Navy dance bands.

Upon honorable discharge from the Navy in August of 1946, George enrolled in the College of the Pacific and graduated in February